

The REcup Project, under the European program CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN, hosted its Participatory Seminar Activity titled “Compacting Poverty and Unemployment through Activation in Europe” from September 19 to 21, 2024, in Novo mesto, Slovenia.

The REcup Project continued its mission of fostering active citizenship and European cooperation by addressing the structural causes of poverty and unemployment in its latest Participatory Seminar Activity held in Novo mesto, Slovenia. The event gathered experts, policymakers, and civil society representatives from various European partner countries to discuss strategies for employment activation, digital engagement, and social inclusion.

The seminar opened on September 19th with the arrival of participants and an official welcome session at 15:00, setting the tone for three days of discussions and collaborative learning. The first session featured a presentation by DRPDNM on best practices in e-consultation and e-initiative, showcasing how digital tools empower citizens to directly engage with policymakers and influence decision-making. The REcup Project Meeting followed, where partners reported on the progress of WP4, WP5, and WP6, focusing on employment policies, civic participation, and digital inclusion. The day concluded with a networking dinner, providing participants with an opportunity to exchange ideas in an informal setting.

On September 20th, the event officially commenced with welcoming speeches from Mayor Gregor Macedoni and DRPDNM President Branka Bukovec, emphasizing the importance of European collaboration in addressing unemployment and poverty through civic activation. Each partner country then presented their national approaches to e-consultation and e-initiative, offering a comparative analysis of different strategies for participatory citizenship.

The main seminar activity, led by A.S.E.L. Romania, focused on Compacting Poverty and Unemployment through Activation in Europe. Participants engaged in roundtable discussions and workshops exploring the barriers to employment and proposing policy solutions to enhance job market accessibility. The afternoon brainstorming session, led by DRPDNM experts, identified key obstacles to employment, particularly post-COVID-19, and developed recovery measures based on best practices from across Europe. A structured roundtable discussion followed, where participants presented draft action plans on employment activation, digital upskilling, and social entrepreneurship development, receiving feedback from experts and peers.

The final day, September 21st, began with a study visit to EU-funded employment activation and social inclusion projects in Novo mesto. This hands-on experience allowed participants to witness successful models of workforce integration and inclusive policies in action. The seminar concluded with a Project Management Meeting, where partners evaluated the event, discussed key takeaways, and outlined next steps for future activities within the REcup Project.

The event reaffirmed the importance of digital engagement, policy innovation, and cross-border collaboration in tackling poverty and unemployment. Through knowledge-sharing and collective problem-solving, the REcup Project continues to empower European citizens, enhance civic participation, and foster inclusive employment opportunities across Europe.

